

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

11-13-01
Date

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554.

Dear Ms. Salas:

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX (Channel 16) to ShootingStar, Inc. This community asset must be preserved for noncommercial educational broadcasting. Pittsburgh is still a thriving city and Channel 16 represents a resource that could provide valuable alternative programming in the public interest. We do not need yet another commercial station.

I do not accept the empty promise of more digital channels. WQED already plans to use some of them for commercial purposes. WQED's external debts were self-inflicted and are now much smaller. Moreover, WQED has admitted to the FCC that its debts do not threaten its broadcast operations.

Permitting WQED to cash in our educational station for a \$20 million windfall would set a dangerous precedent for other reserved channels as well.

Apparently, WQED no longer wants to provide programming on Channel 16, as can be seen by its proposal to sell off this community asset and by the fact that it has been simulcasting on Channels 13 and 16 for four years. Thus, please invite applications from other noncommercial educational organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Anne S. Olson

Signature

Anne S. Olson

Print Name

13180 Veronica Ln.

Street Address

N. Huntingdon PA 15642

City, State, Zipcode

Please keep Channel 16
an educational public
channel. Pittsburgh
should have 3
public channels -
please

Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: "Dorothy P. King" <rjk-dpk@att.net>

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 10:49:34 -0500

To: FCC-comments@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas:
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

re: MM Docket No. 01-276
Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

The management and the Board of Directors of WQED/WQEX have been betraying the citizens of the Pittsburgh Area for many years.

Dorothy P. King
2337 Marbury Road
Pittsburgh PA 15221

rjk-dpk@att.net

Subject: MM Docket 01-276

From: SANDRA D WILLIAMSON <sandraw+@pitt.edu>

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 13:37:56 -0500 (EST)

To: FCC-comments@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kmjweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Commission Members:

Please do not approve the sale and commercialization of the license of station WQEX. This public television station license is an asset of the people of the Pittsburgh region, not of station WQED. This public asset should remain in the possession of the public and should be used for its original purpose, which was to be a public television broadcasting station not a commercial station. If WQED no longer wishes to retain its license and to run different programming on WQEX, then it should give up its license and others should be allowed to vie for the opportunity to use this license for the benefit of the public.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email message.

Sincerely,

Sandra D. Williamson
Associate Professor
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
WWPH3E33
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh PA 15260
sandraw+@pitt.edu

Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: "Joseph S. Amenta" <amenta+@pitt.edu>

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 14:16:44 -0500

To: FCC-comments@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission members:

I write to object to the application of station WQED to convert the license of sister station WQEX to a commercial license and then sell this license. I was a member of WQED for decades, contributing annually to its support, but ceased to contribute after it decided on the above course. After WQEX ceased broadcasting, I wrote a number of letters, stating my objections, instead of continuing to contribute. All my letters were ignored. Never even a thank you, just additional requests for more money over the years. I'm not sure how the board and current staff can consider themselves as representatives of the community.

First, I strongly object to their current action because the airwaves belong to me, and the rest of the people of this country, not WQED. That they should consider selling in the commercial market something that we have let them use temporarily is beyond belief.

Second, WQEX made efforts to address the desires of all sorts of minority viewers, those that have no great desire to follow the main stream of TV these days. The current diet of WQED pretty much reflects this main stream programming, of very limited interest to many of us. I thought that one of the goals of public TV is to address the desires of minority groups, minority opinions, to stimulate public debate. I can understand that WQED should cater to the main stream, but to shut down alternative views of the world as now being requested by WQED seems to go against the essential purpose of public TV.

Third, to simulcast the same programs on channels 13 and 16 is an insult to the citizens of this area. If QED does not want to use channel 16, then allow it to go back to the FCC for reallocation to another organization. What the current simulcast on channel 16 tells us every day is that QED's only interest is in the money that it might obtain for this channel, not the citizens of Pittsburgh. I'm surprised that the FCC allows such nonsense.

Fourth, I strongly believe that channel 16, if granted to another public service organization, would have more than sufficient support from the community. There are many of us "out there" who have had enough of WQED and its current policies. Under the circumstances I can understand why WQED is against allowing another organization to use channel 16. Quite simply they do not look forward to a little competition, sharing the money with someone else. I still can not understand why a city with such a broad range of educational and cultural institutions could not support an alternative TV channel that addresses directly the needs and expressions of the universities, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the various theater groups, the Pittsburgh Film Makers, etc.

Please, please acknowledge my letter. It is enough that WQED manages to ignore my appeals.

Sincerely,

Joseph S. Amenta, M.D.

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

retired

Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: Elliot Newman <elliottn@earthlink.net>

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 15:25:21 -0500

To: FCC-comments@savel6.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal
Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC
20554<p> re: MM Docket No. 01-276</p><p>Dear Commission
members,</p><p>Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of
WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public
broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any
reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing
applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive
the best possible broadcasting.
Elliot Newman
79 North Jackson Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: James Christenson <jacpe@jacpe.com>

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 15:27:11 -0500

To: FCC-comments@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554<p> re: MM Docket No. 01-276</p><p>Dear Commission members,</p><p>Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.</p><p>Additional comments:</p>

When WQEX operated separately, I had access to a number of programs of vital interest to me. These are not available on cable or private stations. Because WQEX apparently carried its own budget, I resent its highhanded reduction to a clone of WQED.

Keeping WQEX public raises the possibility that others like me can once again have a full spectrum of public programs, not available elsewhere.

Sincerely,

James A. Christenson

--

James A. Christenson, P.E.
Christenson Consultants, Inc.
1123 Glencoe Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15220
412/921-0115 Fax: 412/921-3108
(Call before using fax.)
jacpe@jacpe.com
<http://www.jacpe.com>

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: PJMABSP@aol.com

Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 16:20:20 EST

To: FCC-comments@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

Additional comments:

When I was a high school student in the 50's I volunteered at WQED, so I have a very personal interest in Educational Television. When I could afford it I was a member, but I have always been a viewer. The present management of public television in Pittsburgh is like the captain of a ship that is sailing his ship onto the rocks to sink it for the insurance. Nothing short of taking command out of their hands will save the ship. They have a single minded determination to destroy WQED and everything they do is a means to that end.

The people of this area support Public Television and they have paid for it. WQEX belongs to us and not to the people who are trying to destroy it for their profit. I hope you will take it out of their hands and save it for the people who truly own it. Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely Yours,
Patrick J. Prince
3592 Brighton Road apt # 1
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212
(412) 761 - 8574

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276---WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educa
From: Ourayboy@aol.com
Date: Sun, 16 Dec 2001 16:45:35 EST

To: FCC-comments@save.16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

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Dear Commission Members.....

Please DO NOT APPROVE THE COMMERCIALIZATION AND SALE OF WQED'S EDUCATIONAL
LICENSE !!!!!!!!!

I SUPPORT KEEPING CHANNEL 16 A PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATION. WQEX, CHANNEL
16 IS A PUBLIC
TRUST THAT WAS AWARDED TO THE PEOPLE OF PITTSBURGH FOR EDUCATIONAL
BROADCASTING ONLY.
IT IS NOT THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF WQED PITTSBURGH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
THEY SHOULD
NOT BE ALLOWED TO SELL IT FOR A PROFIT.

WQED'S DEBTS ARE THE RESULT OF WASTEFUL MISMANAGEMENT. I BELIEVE THAT THERE
IS ENOUGH
MONEY COMING IN THROUGH PUBLIC DONATIONS TO KEEP BOTH WQED AND WQEX EASILY
OPERATING
FOR SOME YEARS TO COME. PERHAPS IT IS THE OVERPAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THE
TOP PEOPLE
AT WQED AND THE LACK OF PUBLIC INPUT THAT NEEDS TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND
NOT THE SALE
OF WQEX

THE TWO CHOICE PHRASE'S USED BY CORPORATE AMERICA ARE: "AT THE END OF THE
DAY" AND "THE
BOTTOM LINE IS".....I KNOW YOU BELIEVE THESE ARE OVER-USED AND SO IS THE
ABJECT QUEST BY
PRESENT MANAGEMENT TO DELIVER UP WQEX FOR MONEY. ISN'T THERE MORE TO PUBLIC
EDUCATIONAL
TV THAT YOU SHOULD LET THE PEOPLE OF THE PITTSBURGH AREA FIX THEMSELVES ???

SINCERELY,

RICHARD DE BROFF
125 CHALET DRIVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15221
412-241-7878

Subject: prometheus radio comments on dereservation of wqex pittsburg
From: pete tridish <donotusethis.donotusethis@verizon.net>
Date: Sat, 15 Dec 2001 13:32:56 -0500
To: prp@dojo.tao.ca

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554.

Re: WQED application to dereserve the noncommercial license of channel 16,
Pittsburgh. MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Ms. Salas and Commissioners of the FCC:

I write on behalf of the Prometheus Radio Project to ask you to reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to dereserve channel 16 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Prometheus Radio Project is an organization devoted to promoting democratic access to media channels for all people. Though we focus on radio, we advocate on behalf of community access in all forms of media.

In general, it is the position of the Prometheus Radio Project that the FCC should refuse all requests to dereserve non-commercial broadcast channels. Today, it is unfortunately not uncommon for short-sighted, mendacious public broadcasting executives to attempt to increase today's operating budgets by selling off portions of the spectrum that has been entrusted to them. Just because the station managers at WQED lack the creativity and innovation to successfully operate two public channels does not mean that no one else in Pittsburgh can make good non-commercial use of WQEX.

The managers of WQED claim that Pittsburgh is not a large enough city to sustain two public television stations. Perhaps this is true if the vision of public broadcasting is limited to Teletubbies and gourmet cooking shows. The managers of WQED are asking for economic protection of their public broadcasting niche. By first taking over the channel and simulcasting their signal on WQEX, and then eliminating their only major potential competitor, they believe they can assure the economic future of their institution. However, it is not the role of the FCC to pick winners and losers. The viability arguments made by WQED must be discarded.

When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate, compared to WQED's 13 million dollar budget. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus at times. Though public channels like this occasionally run into troubles, no incompetent management should ever be allowed to change our nation's policy of allocating certain parts of the spectrum to non-commercial operations. If a non-commercial station goes bankrupt, the law says that the frequency should simply be transferred to another non-commercial entity or should go back to the commission for reallocation to another non-commercial entity. It would be a dangerous precedent to allow non-commercial entities to apply for non-commercial frequencies, run them into the ground after a period of time, and then turn around and sell them to commercial entities. In fact, some non-commercial organizations could be "built to fail." They could be started, acquire frequencies on the more lenient terms that non-commercial institutions receive broadcast spectrum, and then turn around years later and sell to the highest bidder.

There are other groups, like Pittsburgh Educational Television, that are ready to take the reins of WQEX and operate in the public interest. WQED has rejected their proposals, holding out for the possible mega-profits they could receive by selling WQEX to a commercial entity. They do this because they feel they will be able to manipulate the FCC's rulemaking process with their whining about the fiscal needs of public broadcasting. Meanwhile, their executives receive compensation packages of close to a quarter million dollars. In all walks of life, there are no shortages of

opportunists. Public broadcasting, with its loose management practices, is no exception. The current crowd in charge of WQED should not receive any special favors from the FCC.

Thank you for your consideration ,

Pete Tridish
Prometheus Radio Project
--

pē'tre dīsh (n): a squat, cylindrical, transparent article of laboratory glassware, useful in observing resistant strains of culture in aetherial media.

petri@critpath.org
www.prometheus.tao.ca
Prometheus Radio Project
215-727-9620

Jerold M. Starr

From: Edith Benzinger [benzinger@carlow.edu]
Sent: Saturday, December 15, 2001 12:17 PM
To: jmstarr@cipbonline.org; kabernat@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov;
mpowell@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; slerman@lsl-law.com
Subject: Opposing Sale of WQEX

My family is strongly opposed to the sale of Channel 16, WQEX. We think the actions of WQED are unconscionable in attempting to profit from the sale of this channel. As a public channel, it is not private profit which can be sold to subsidize the mismanagement of WQED and the six-figure salaries--the outright profiteering--of WQED executives.

RECEIVED

Edith M. Benzinger
G. Richard Benzinger, Jr.

DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Jerold M. Starr

From: pete tridish [donotusethis.donotusethis@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 15, 2001 1:33 PM
To: prp@dojo.tao.ca
Subject: prometheus radio comments on dereservation of wqex pittsburg

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445 12th Street, NW
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Thank you for your consideration ,

Pete Tridish
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petri dish (n): a squat, cylindrical, transparent article of laboratory glassware, useful in observing resistant strains of culture in aetherial media.

petri@critpath.org
www.prometheus.tao.ca
Prometheus Radio Project
215-727-9620

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Jerold M. Starr

From: Robert Alico [ralico@adelphia.net]

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2001 8:12 AM

To: webmaster@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov;
kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu;
jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Subject: Channel 16 iin Pittsburgh

FCC MAIL ROOM

Please do NOT commercialize Channel 16 in Pittsburgh, Pa. There are many good adult level programs that we enjoy and would be lost to us if this channel goes public

Thank you for listening to my request.

Robert K. Alico

Marsha J. Alico

11/28/01

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

Jerold M. Starr

From: mrb190 [mrb190@pitt.edu]
Sent: Sunday, December 09, 2001 6:25 PM
To: mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@sl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; jnstarr@cipbonline.org
Subject: WQEX-TV Pittsburgh

FCC MAIL ROOM

To: the FCC

This e-mail serves to document my opposition to WQED Pittsburgh's FCC petition to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX to ShootingStar Inc. I oppose for the following reasons:

- 1.) WQEX is a public trust for the people of Pittsburgh, not a private property to be sold for profit by WQED.
- 2.) Statistics indicate that WQEX was once the third most watched second station in the country prior to WQED's decision to simulcast the children's shows and national feed shows it is broadcasting on WQED. Bland, all-too-safe, and conservative can only describe the typical programs WQED has in their program line-up.
- 3.) WQEX apparently generated a surplus for WQED when it was still functioning with separate programming. This is because the operating budget was a fraction of WQED's.
- 4.) WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. I was not particularly shocked to learn that there was a WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board members. I still cannot fathom why the TWO (why two?) CFOs have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million per year, and TEN WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year! This is public broadcasting - not commercial broadcasting!
- 5.) Given the highly-paid executives, and the stations penchant for secrecy, how can we expect the WQED management to be accountable for our public television.
- 6.) Does the FCC want to set a precedent in the nation by allowing WQED to sell off WQEX? How many other public stations will be on the market to solve cash flow problems?
- 7.) WQED is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, but half of this it owes to its own capital fund. Furthermore, it has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more.
- 8.) Finally, and most alarming, WQED, has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station as they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles, the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. Pittsburgh Education Television (PET), for example, has a plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel 16.

Given the aforementioned points, I strongly urge the FCC on behalf of those who support the independence of WQEX programming as a public television station, to reject WQED's petition to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX.

Respectfully yours,

Matt Barry
4131 Davis Avenue

Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: Dr. Robert Bellamy; Associate Professor of Media Communication; Department of Communication; Duquesne University; Pittsburgh, PA 15282; Phone: 412-396-6446 (O), 412-833-3828 (H); E-mail: bellamy@duq.edu

To: FCC-comments@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@lsl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

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Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Martin:

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's designated noncommercial educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station, and -- regardless of its classification -- the reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications in order to insure that the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

Each of you have expressed your support for noncommercial broadcasting in the past. Chairman Powell recently stated that noncommercial licensees "serve the public interest by producing superb noncommercial educational broadcasting." Commissioners Abernathy and Martin have expressed similar sentiments. Commissioner Copps recently argued that :

Commercial television is about appealing to and entertaining the broadest possible market. Public television is about serving the better angels of our nature. It is about sustaining the virtues of education, civic involvement and American democracy. It in no way denigrates commercial television to say that public television is supposed to be, and is, different. When it begins to lose this different identity, it begins to lose its soul.

Clearly the four of you constitute a Federal Communication Commission that supports and values the contribution of commercial alternatives on the public's spectrum.

I ask you then to reject WQED's petition for declassification of the noncommercial status of Channel 16 in order to then sell the license to a commercial broadcaster. There is simply no need to allow these actions for the following reasons:

1. WQED is in no danger of economic failure. The previous testimony to the Commission in this matter has indicated this is the case. In addition, the Director of the WQED-Pittsburgh Board of Directors stated in the December 9, 2001 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "Membership support hit an all time high in 2001. Financial statements have been sporting slight excesses of revenues over expenses" (sec. B, p. 1). And, as has been well-documented in this Docket, any financial problems of WQED are solely the result of its mismanagement and waste of public and private donations through high executive salaries and poor programming/production investments.

2. WQED's arguments that Pittsburgh does not deserve and can not support a second noncommercial television station are self-serving at best. The former WQEX-TV was more than self-supporting financially, served a diverse audience that WQED does not, and was converted to a full-time simulcast of the WQED signal only as part of a campaign to take from the citizens of this region an asset they owned, used, and valued. Under no circumstances should WQED be rewarded and allowed to profit from making a calculated decision not to operate one of its two reserved noncommercial licenses in the public interest.

Please do not be swayed by the "gloom and doom" scenario that WQED's proponents attempt to place on the Pittsburgh market. Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We support three professional sports teams, a world class symphony, an opera company, a ballet company, numerous outstanding art museums, world class natural history and science museums, and myriad other theatrical and cultural organizations. A number of our many universities, colleges, technical, art, culinary, and film schools are world class. We readily support three public radio stations. We can easily support two public TV stations -- other smaller cities presently do. The formation of Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET) demonstrates that there is not only the interest, but a viable plan to keep Channel 16 as it was meant to be --- noncommercial, independent, alternative.

Perhaps you join me in finding curious that WQED argues that Pittsburgh can not support a second noncommercial station, but somehow generates enough advertising revenue to support another commercial station (with vastly higher operating costs). The fact is that Pittsburgh has a full complement of commercial stations and that some of them (including LPTV licensees) are struggling to survive. Would another marginal UHF independent (or niche network-affiliated) commercial station truly add to the diversity of broadcasting in Pittsburgh. This is also one of the more heavily cable and satellite urban areas in the nation. Over 80% of residents pay for television and get dozens if not hundreds of commercial choices. What the residents, whether with 100 or more cable channels or the 10 over the air channels, lack is an alternative to commercial broadcasting. Perhaps WQED is not willing to compete with another noncommercial educational provider, especially one committed to local expression as its contribution to the marketplace of ideas and the public interest.

3) Neither the Commission nor the Congress has changed the definition of a broadcast license holder from "trustee" to "owner." This trustee/owner distinction seems to be even more important for noncommercial educational broadcasters, as in the Commission's recent decision to limit the commercialization of the digital frequency they

have been granted. Yet, WQED takes the position that it should be able to sell what it does not own. Frankly, Commissioners, this is just wrong. What makes it worse is there are alternatives available that WQED refuses to consider because it is so convinced it can persuade you to reward its demonstrably poor record of spectrum stewardship. WQED made no attempt to keep operating Ch. 16 despite the station's positive contribution to its financial position. WQED made no attempt to partner with one of the many Universities/Colleges/Schools or Cultural/Arts Institutions or Citizens Groups in the Pittsburgh area in an attempt to maintain the station. Finally, even if such attempts had not been fruitful, WQED did not have the simple integrity to turn the Channel 16 spectrum space back to the government for reallocation. Please give P.E.T. and other people the opportunity to apply for and maintain Channel 16.

For the third time, WQED has come to the FCC "hat in hand" trying to get a handout (windfall) without justification and without attempts to seek out alternatives. For the third time, please do not reward them. The people of Pittsburgh deserve better.

Sincerely,

Robert Bellamy, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Media Communication

Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies

Duquesne University

600 Forbes Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Ph: 412-396-6446 [O], 412-833-3828 [H]

E-Mail: bellamy@duq.edu

Jerold M. Starr

From: Carol Blackwell [cjb@access995.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 02, 2001 2:19 PM
To: FCC-comments@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; jmstarr@cipbonline.org
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2001
FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.

WQED only has really good programming when they are asking for money. When QEX was around I never bothered with QED because QEX was so much more fun. QEX offered the kind of programming I enjoy. I miss that programming. Why should the people in this area be penalized because the management of these stations can't run a business?

Thank you,

C.J. Blackwell

12/3/01

Jerold M. Starr

From: Megan Branning [msbst41+@pitt.edu]
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2001 8:12 PM
To: webmaster@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov;
kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu;
jmstarr@cipbonline.org
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2001
FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Commission members,

WQEX belongs to the citizens of Pittsburgh, and it should not be sold. The city is quite capable of supporting it, which is evidenced by the fact that it was the third most watched "second station" in the country. Pittsburghers love WQEX and the wonderful programming it provided us with. If it is sold, it will be a terrible disappointment to the citizens of this city.

You must not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. Channel 16 should be kept as a public broadcasting station.

Thank you very much for your attention,

Megan Branning

11/28/01

RECEIVED

Jerold M. Starr

DEC 18 2001

From: ESAInc@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2001 3:37 PM
To: msalas@fcc.gov
Cc: jmstarr@cipbonline.org
Subject: WQEX Sale as an undeserved Windfall and a loss to the Public

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Secretary:

I object to the sale of WQEX, one of our Pittsburgh public air-wave stations by WQED:

1. It is not owned by WQED, It is a part of the air-waves owned by us; the public and the citizens of this country.
2. If WQED can not fulfill its TRUST TO MANAGE then please let us the public maintain ownership, please DO NOT REWARD WQED as a WINDFALL of money by selling something they don't even own. I pray that the FCC will protect us, the public.
3. WQED says they need money, but I stopped sending my annual contribution when I learned of this sale in 1997. I can not support someone who is stealing from their own public resources - our air waves.
4. Please allow the public to use these valuable air-waves in a way beneficial to the public.

Thank you, Bernard P. Breen, Ph.D., Citizen - 630 Trimont Lane, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15211

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 slerman@lsl-law.com, conematt@hotmail.com [Save Address](#)
 Subject: Letter of opposition to the WQED petition
 Date: Tue, 20 Feb 2001 22:24:34 -0500

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Commissioner Michael Powell
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, NW
 Washington D.C. 20554

20 February 2001

VIA U.S. POST SIMULTANEOUSLY

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I am writing to urge the FCC to reject WQED's petition to commercialize the license of WQEX, one of Pittsburgh's public broadcasting stations.

In the opinion of this native Pittsburgher, WQED's scheme flagrantly contradicts the public convenience, interest, and necessity. Indeed, in light of the station's recent dubious conduct, this petition exposes WQED's systematic indifference towards the public trust.

Two facts about WQED's proposal are particularly troublesome. My first concern is with the secretive and underhanded manner in which the decision was made. Under the cover of clandestine negotiations and closed-door meetings, WQED's board decided to, in effect, liquidate a public resource. Moreover the board made this decision in the face of the community's repeated requests to make WQED's operations more transparent to the public.

Secondly, I am particularly concerned with the scheme considering WQED's ongoing pattern of fiscal mismanagement. It is unacceptable that WQED's board is looking to sell off the public interest in order to recover from its fiscal recklessness.

As someone who appreciates critically engaging, noncommercial programming (to the limited extent that it even appears on the current airwaves) I feel very strongly that the last thing we need in Pittsburgh is another commercial channel. Please defend the public interest in Pittsburgh by rejecting WQED's petition to transfer WQEX into commercial hands.

Sincerely,

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Subject: **WQEX Pittsburgh**
Date: **Sat, 24 Feb 2001 21:40:37 EST**

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February 24, 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell,

I am concerned about the prospect of losing WQEX as a public television station.

WQEX is a public trust that was awarded to the people of Pittsburgh more than a generation ago. For decades, this station lived up to its commitment to serve the educational and cultural needs of the residents of Pittsburgh.

While WQEX's reputation has been sullied through no fault of its own over the past few years, this is a station that has won the support of countless Pittsburghers. Unlike WQED which appears to have alienated much of its following over the past decade, WQEX was still going strong (and turning a profit) when it was forced to take part in the humiliating simulcasting scheme.

WQEX won the hearts of Pittsburghers by broadcasting programs that addressed our needs, programs with a focus on local figures and events like Labor's Corner and Cullen-Devlin. In examining the recent programming at WQED, it is obvious that this station has not made an effort to air programs that are relevant to our lives.

Please do not allow a station that is so out of touch with the public to pull the plug on a station that has historically been a tremendous resource to the people of Pittsburgh.

Respectfully,

Luciana Chavez

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